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SOURCE Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao.

ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL PASSES
LAND-REFORM MEASURES

Pei-p'ing, 28 February -- The Administration Council of the Central People's Government has issued new regulations concerning land reform and grain collection in newly liberated territories. The regulations include the following provisions:

1. Since insufficient progress has been made in the education of the masses in newly liberated territories in the Northeast [sic], central and South China, and the Southwest no redistribution of land will be carried out in those areas before the autumn harvest in 1950. After the 1950 autumn harvest, wherever the minds of the masses have been sufficiently prepared in the nine provinces of Kiangsu, Chekiang, Anhwei, Fukien, Kiangsi, Hupeh, Hunan, Kwangtung, and Shensi, and in the areas of the three provinces of Kansu, Ningsia and Tsinghai occupied by Chinese people, the People's Provincial Governments may begin the carrying out of the land reform. But in areas of these provinces where the people are not prepared, or where bandit activities constitute a hindrance, the reform may wait until after the 1951 autumn harvest.
2. In the six provinces of Kwangsi, Yunnan, Kweichow, Szechwan, Sikang and Suiyuan, the reform program shall be delayed until after the 1951 autumn harvest.
3. In the areas where mixed races dwell, the land reform program shall not be instituted until after the 1951 autumn harvest and whether it shall be carried out then or not will be decided later.
4. Before the institution of the land-reform program in newly liberated areas, the reduction-of-rent program should be instituted by the provincial authorities. Before the land reform, landlords charging rent on the new legal basis should be paid by renters without question and their lands should remain in their possession without question. Landlords, however, may not

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dissipate their lands during the period before land reform by sale, mortgage, pledge, or gift. Any such transactions undertaken shall be declared void. Sales among cultivators of their own lands are not included in the above prohibition since the lands of the middle farmers, poor farmers, and farm laborers may not be confiscated or divided.

5. The local authorities must see to it that all arable land is in use and that its yield is protected. Authorities must manage the cultivation of waste lands and find people to cultivate any unused lands. Lands of landlords who have fled, or of oppressive landlords, should be confiscated. The people who have been cultivating lands taken under management by the authorities should be permitted to continue cultivation.

6. Prior to the redistribution of the land, the authorities should guard against destruction of property, such as the slaughter of work animals, damaging of implements, and felling of trees. Stern action should be taken against the perpetrators of any such acts.

7. In some places in the newly liberated areas landlords have already voluntarily reduced rents; in others they have not. In some places the renters have entirely ceased to pay rent and the landlords are afraid to receive rents. Under these conditions and also in view of the fact that the recent grain collection was very heavy and irregularly administered, being light on some and heavy on others, a number of pressing questions have arisen. In some cases the collection has amounted to 80 percent of the whole yield, in others the whole crop has been taken for public grain, or in some cases the whole yield was insufficient to meet the assessment. Shortcomings and faults are manifested in such collection methods, and they must be corrected and improved; otherwise, the agricultural program of the people's government will become disordered. The plan of delaying the land redistribution until after the 1950 autumn harvest will appear to lose its meaning and the responsibility of the authorities for collecting the public grain will be placed in jeopardy. To correct this and facilitate the completion of the work of collecting public grain in all areas, the following rules are set forth:

a. Where grain collection for the central government in the new areas does not exceed 70 percent of the total production, local officials may not add more than 15 percent for local use. In cases where this has been exceeded, a rebate should be given. After assessments of public grain have been distributed from headquarters, a careful local check should be made to see that there is no overassessment. Where it may happen, rebates should be made.

b. Assessments should be made on the actual total yield of each farmer's fields. In the case of landlords, the assessment should not exceed 60 percent of his total crop. In special cases assessments up to, but not exceeding, 80 percent may be made. Assessments amounting to more than this should be reduced; if the grain has already been collected, a refund should be made. Landlords who sell their grain before the public-grain collection has been made shall not benefit by this rule.

c. Public grain shall be collected from not less than 90 percent of the actual population.

d. Where landlords have not reduced rents or have received excess rent, the total public-grain collection shall be made from the landlord and the renters shall not be required to furnish any grain.

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e. Where landlords have reduced rent by 25 percent, the basic grain collection levied on each mou of land shall be collected proportionally from both landlord and renter. In general this means that landlord and renter should each furnish one-half of the basic levy. Surtaxes shall be collected from the landlord alone. Where rents have been reduced more than 25 percent or less than 25 percent, landlord and renters shall furnish the basic public-grain levy proportionally to the amount of rent collected.

f. In cases where the landlord is charging no rent or the renter refuses to pay rent, the entire assessment of public grain against the land shall be borne by the renter.

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